

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
Prefiled Resolution

RS.15.05 Resolution Regarding the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure Report

Whereas the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has completed its investigation and deliberation concerning the withdrawal and rejection by the University administration and Trustees of an offer of a tenured faculty appointment on this campus to Dr. Steven Salaita and has presented its findings of fact and policy recommendations in its December 23, 2014 "Report on the Investigation into the Matter of Steven Salaita"; and

Whereas that report finds, inter alia, that "The process by which Dr. Salaita's proposed appointment was withdrawn and eventually rejected did not follow existing policies and procedures in several substantial respects, raising questions about the institution's commitment to shared governance;" and

Whereas the report finds further that "the reasons given" for the withdrawal of the original offer to Dr. Salaita are "not consistent with the University's guarantee of freedom of political speech," adding that "civility does not constitute a legitimate criterion for rejecting his appointment"; and

Whereas the report finds further that "The Chancellor's, the President's, and the Trustees' disregard for the principles of shared governance and the very specific policies and procedures of the university and the campus is a serious matter. It violates the foundational arrangements designed to assure excellence as well as the trust necessary for a complex web of interdependent relationships to function well and with integrity;" and

Whereas the report further recommends "that statements made by the Chancellor, President, and Trustees asserting civility as a standard of conduct be withdrawn"; and

Whereas the report further recommends that all questions recently raised about Dr. Salaita's "professional fitness" be "remanded to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for reconsideration by a committee of qualified academic experts" and that Salaita "be provided the opportunity to respond to any proposed findings of professional unfitness before the body concludes its proceedings;"

Therefore, the Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus calls upon the Chancellor, President, and Board of Trustees to implement these recommendations promptly.

Submitted by Faculty Senators:

Bruce Levine (History)
Kay Emmert (English)
Shawn Gilmore (English)
Isabel Molina (Media and Cinema Studies)
Jennifer Monson (Dance)
Dana Rabin (History)
Kristina Riedel (Linguistics)
D. Fairchild Ruggles (Landscape Architecture)
Gabriel Solis (Music)
Mark Steinberg (History)
Anna Stenport (Germanic Languages and Literature)
Terry Weech (LISC)
Terri Weissman (Art and Design)